

**REMARKS**

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-96 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1-96 have been rejected. By the above amendments, claim 1, 2, 15, 16, 25, 26, 39, 40, 49, 50, 63, 64, 73, 74, 87, and 88 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-96 are currently pending.

**Double Patenting**

Within the Office Action, claims 1-96 have been provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-40 of co-pending Application No. 09/801,072.

The amended independent claim 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, 63, 73, and 87 of the present application and the amended independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of Application No. 09/801,072 vary in scope. Specifically, the amended independent claims 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, 63, 73, and 87 of the present application are directed to performing a search using a search module, where the search module includes three different types of search methodologies. The amended independent claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 41, 42, 43, and 47 of Application No. 09/801,072 are directed to performing a search using a search module, where the search module includes four different types of search methodologies. Therefore, the amended independent claims within the present application and the amended independent claims within the Application No. 09/801,072 are not directed to the same invention.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-15, 17-25, 29-39, 41-51, 54-76, and 79-96 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,098,066 issued to Snow et al. (hereafter "Snow").

Snow teaches formatting a searchable database into a tree structure of directories. Snow teaches categorizing documents, and then performing a keyword search by first specifying the category in which the keyword search is to be performed and then performing the keyword search within that category.

As acknowledged in the Office Action, the Snow reference applies to a selective one search methodology, a keyword search. However, Snow does not teach a search model that inclusively uses a combination of different types of search methodologies including a keyword

search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search. It is acknowledged in the Office Action that Snow does not teach at least the dichotomous key search.

By the above amendments, the independent claims are amended to clarify that the present invention includes a search module. The search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability. Any combination of these four search methodologies can be used to complete a research task.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 1 comprises the steps of utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, and a dichotomous key search capability, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the above steps until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including three different types of search capabilities. For at least these reasons the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-14 depend on the independent claim 1. As described above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 4, 5 and 7-14 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 15 is directed to research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 15 comprises a research server configured to utilize a search module, to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, and a dichotomous key search capability, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different

search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach a search module including a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability and a dichotomous key search capability. Further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a hierarchical search or a dichotomous key search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 17-24 depend on the independent claim 15. As described above, the independent claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 17-24 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 25 is directed to method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 25 comprises utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, and a parametric search capability, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the above steps until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability and a parametric search capability. Further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a hierarchical search or a parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 25 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 29-38 depend on the independent claim 25. As described above, the independent claim 25 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 29-38 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 39 is directed to research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 39 comprises a research server configured to utilize a

search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability, and a parametric search capability, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach a search module including a keyword search capability, a hierarchical search capability and a parametric search capability. Further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a hierarchical search or a parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 39 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 41-48 depend on the independent claim 39. As described above, the independent claim 39 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 41-48 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 49 is directed to method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 49 comprises the steps of utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the above steps until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including a keyword search capability, a dichotomous key search capability and a parametric search

capability. Still further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a dichotomous key search or a parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 49 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 50, 51 and 54-62 depend on the independent claim 49. As described above, the independent claim 49 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 50, 51 and 54-62 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 63 is directed to a research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 63 comprises a research server configured to utilize a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach a search module including a keyword search capability, a dichotomous key search capability and a parametric search capability. Still further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a dichotomous key search or a parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 63 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 64-72 depend on the independent claim 63. As described above, the independent claim 63 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 64-72 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 73 is directed to a method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 73 comprises the steps of utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the

search module includes a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the above steps until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach using a search module including a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability and a parametric search capability. Still further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, or a parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 73 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 74-76 and 79-86 depend on the independent claim 73. As described above, the independent claim 73 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 74-76 and 79-86 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 87 is directed to a research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 87 comprises a research server configured to utilize a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability, and a parametric search capability, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed. As discussed above, Snow does not teach a search module including a hierarchical search capability, a dichotomous key search capability and a parametric search capability. Still further, Snow does not teach performing a subsequent search on previous search results using a

hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, or a parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 87 is allowable over the teachings of Snow.

Claims 88-96 depend on the independent claim 87. As described above, the independent claim 87 is allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 88-96 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Within the Office Action, Claims 2, 3, 6, 16, 26-28, 40, 52, 53, 77 and 78 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,588 issued to Danish et al. (hereafter "Danish").

Claims 2, 3 and 6 are dependent on the independent claim 1. Claim 16 is dependent on the independent claim 15. Claims 26-28 are dependent on the independent claim 25. Claim 40 is dependent on the independent claim 39. Claims 52 and 53 are dependent on the independent claim 49. Claims 77 and 78 are dependent on the independent claim 73. As discussed above, the independent claims 1, 15, 25, 39, 49, and 73 are each allowable over the teachings of Snow. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 6, 16, 26-28, 40, 52, 53, 77, and 78 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-96 are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he/she is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700.

Respectfully submitted,  
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